



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6697

January Session, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING DIRECT PRIMARIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to
2 state office, as defined in section 9-372 of the general statutes, or the
3 district office of representative in Congress shall be available from the
4 Secretary of the State beginning the first business day in March in
5 even-numbered years. Petition forms for candidacies for nomination to
6 the district offices of judge of probate, state senator or state
7 representative shall be available from the Secretary of the State
8 beginning on the day following the close of the applicable district
9 convention. Any person who requests a petition form shall give the
10 person's name and address and the name, address and office sought of
11 each candidate for whom the petition is being obtained and shall file a
12 statement signed by each such candidate that such candidate consents
13 to be a candidate for such office. Each such candidate shall include on
14 the statement of consent the candidate's name as the candidate
15 authorizes it to appear on the ballot. Upon receiving such information
16 and statement, the Secretary shall type or print on a petition form the
17 name and address of each such candidate, the office sought and the
18 political party holding the primary. The Secretary shall give to any
19 person requesting such form one or more petition pages, suitable for
20 duplication, as the Secretary deems necessary. If the person is
21 requesting the form on behalf of an indigent candidate or a group of

22 indigent candidates listed on the same petition, the Secretary shall give
23 the person the number of original pages that the person requests or the
24 number which the Secretary deems sufficient. An original petition
25 page filled in by the Secretary may be duplicated by or on behalf of the
26 candidate or candidates listed on the page and signatures may be
27 obtained on such duplicates. The duplicates may be filed in the same
28 manner and shall be subject to the same requirements as original
29 petition pages. All information relative to primary petitions shall be a
30 public record.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The petition form for candidacies for nomination
32 to state or district office shall be prescribed and provided by the
33 Secretary of the State, and signatures shall be obtained only on such
34 form or on duplicate petition pages produced in accordance with the
35 provisions of section 1 of this act. The form shall include a statement of
36 instructions to persons using the form and shall indicate the date and
37 time by which it shall be filed and the person with whom it shall be
38 filed. The form shall provide spaces for the names and addresses of the
39 candidates, the offices to which nomination is sought and the political
40 party holding the primary, and shall provide lines for the signatures,
41 street addresses and dates of birth of enrolled party members
42 supporting the person or persons on behalf of whose candidacy the
43 petition is used.

44 (b) Only as many candidates may be proposed in any one primary
45 petition for the same office as are to be nominated by such party for
46 such office, but any one primary petition may propose as many
47 candidates for different offices as there are nominations to be made.

48 (c) The names of enrolled party members signing a primary petition
49 may be on several pages, provided no person shall sign more than one
50 petition page for the same candidate or candidates. Each such page
51 shall indicate the candidate or candidates supported, the offices sought
52 and the political party for which nomination is being sought. No page
53 of such a petition shall contain the names of enrolled party members
54 residing in different municipalities and any petition page which has

55 been certified by the registrars of two or more municipalities shall be
56 rejected by the Secretary. Withdrawal of petition signatures shall not
57 be permitted.

58 (d) Each circulator of a primary petition page shall be an enrolled
59 party member of a municipality in this state who is entitled to vote in
60 the primary for which such petition is being filed. Each petition page
61 shall contain a statement signed by the registrar of the municipality in
62 which the circulator is an enrolled party member attesting that the
63 circulator is an enrolled party member in the municipality and is
64 entitled to vote in the primary for which the petition is being filed.
65 Unless such a statement by the registrar appears on each page so
66 submitted, the Secretary shall reject the page. Each separate page of the
67 petition shall contain a statement as to the authenticity of the
68 signatures on the page and the number of such signatures, and shall be
69 signed under the penalties of false statement by the person who
70 circulated the page, setting forth the circulator's address and the town
71 in which the circulator is an enrolled party member and attesting that
72 each person whose name appears on the page signed the petition in
73 person in the presence of the circulator, that the circulator either
74 knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified
75 himself or herself to the circulator and that the spaces for candidates
76 supported, offices sought and the political party involved were filled
77 in prior to the obtaining of the signatures. Each separate page of the
78 petition shall also be acknowledged before an appropriate person as
79 provided in section 1-29 of the general statutes. The Secretary shall
80 reject any page of a petition filed with the Secretary which does not
81 contain such a statement by the circulator as to the authenticity of the
82 signatures on the page, or upon which the statement of the circulator is
83 incomplete in any respect, or which does not contain the certification
84 required under this section by the registrar of the town in which the
85 circulator is an enrolled party member. Any individual proposed as a
86 candidate in any primary petition may serve as a circulator of the
87 pages of the petition, provided the individual's service as circulator
88 does not violate any provision of this section.

89 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) Upon the receipt of any page of a petition
90 proposing a candidacy for a state or district office, the registrar shall
91 forthwith sign and give to the person submitting the petition a receipt,
92 in duplicate, stating the number of pages filed and the date and time of
93 filing. The person or the candidate shall forthwith send one copy of the
94 receipt to the Secretary of the State. The registrar shall indicate on each
95 such petition page the date and time of filing, shall forthwith certify on
96 each such page the number of signers of the page who were enrolled
97 on the last-completed enrollment list of such party in the municipality
98 or political subdivision, as the case may be, and shall forthwith file
99 such certified page in person or by mail, as described in section 9-140b
100 of the general statutes, with the Secretary within seven days after
101 receipt of the page. In checking the signatures on primary petition
102 pages, the registrar shall reject any name which does not appear on the
103 last-completed enrollment list of such party in the municipality or
104 political subdivision, as the case may be. Such rejection shall be
105 indicated by placing an "R" before the name rejected. The registrar may
106 place a check mark before each name appearing on the enrollment list
107 to indicate approval but shall place no other mark on the page except
108 as provided in this act and in chapter 153 of the general statutes. The
109 registrar shall not reject any name for which the street address on the
110 petition is different from the street address on the enrollment list, if (1)
111 such person is eligible to vote for the candidate or candidates named in
112 the petition, and (2) the person's date of birth, as shown on the petition
113 page, is the same as the date of birth on the person's registration
114 record.

115 (b) Upon the filing of all pages of a petition, the Secretary shall reject
116 any page of the petition which does not contain the certifications
117 required in section 2 of this act or which the Secretary determines to
118 have been circulated in violation of any provision of said section 2, and
119 shall cause the number of certified signatures to be tabulated. Petitions
120 filed with the Secretary shall be preserved for a period of three years
121 and then may be destroyed.

122 Sec. 4. Section 9-383 of the general statutes is repealed and the

123 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

124 The time and place of meeting of a state or district convention shall
125 be fixed by the state central committee or other authority of the party
126 holding such convention, in accordance with the rules of such party;
127 provided each such convention held to endorse candidates for state or
128 district office to be voted upon at a state election shall be convened not
129 earlier than the [sixty-eighth] ninety-sixth day and closed not later
130 than the [fiftieth] seventy-eighth day preceding the day of the primary
131 for such office.

132 Sec. 5. Section 9-400 of the general statutes is repealed and the
133 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

134 (a) [Within fourteen days following the close of the state convention,
135 a] A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office may
136 be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name appears upon the
137 last-completed enrollment list of such party in any municipality within
138 the state and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent of the
139 votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-call
140 vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
141 candidate for such state office, whether or not the party-endorsed
142 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
143 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two
144 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the state, including
145 at least one per cent of the enrolled members of such party from each
146 congressional district, in accordance with the provisions of sections 1
147 to 3, inclusive, of this act. Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of
148 this subsection shall be filed by [the filing with] submitting to the
149 Secretary of the State [, of] not later than four o'clock p.m. on the
150 fourteenth day following the close of the state convention, a certificate,
151 signed by such candidate and attested by either [(1)] (A) the chairman
152 or presiding officer, or [(2)] (B) the secretary of the convention, that
153 such candidate received at least fifteen per cent of such votes, and that
154 [he] such candidate consents to be a candidate in a primary of such
155 party for such state office. Such certificate shall specify the candidate's

156 name as [he] the candidate authorizes it to appear on the ballot, [his]
157 the candidate's full residence address and the title of the office for
158 which [his] the candidacy is being filed. A single such certificate for
159 state office may be filed on behalf of two or more candidates for
160 different state offices who consent to have their names appear on a
161 single row of the primary ballot label under subsection (b) of section 9-
162 437, as amended by this act. Candidacies described in subdivision (2)
163 of this subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later
164 than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the
165 state convention to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the
166 respective petition pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each
167 page of such petition with the Secretary in accordance with the
168 provisions of section 3 of this act. Except as provided in section 9-416a,
169 upon the expiration of the fourteen-day period, if one or more
170 candidacies for such state office have been filed pursuant to the
171 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
172 town clerks in accordance with the provisions of section 9-433, that a
173 primary for such state office shall be held in each municipality in
174 accordance with the provisions of section 9-415, as amended by this
175 act.

176 (b) [Within fourteen days following the close of the district
177 convention, a] A candidacy for nomination by a political party to a
178 district office may be filed by or on behalf of any person whose name
179 appears upon the last-completed enrollment list of such party within
180 any municipality or part of a municipality forming a component part
181 of such district and who has either (1) received at least fifteen per cent
182 of the votes of the convention delegates present and voting on any roll-
183 call vote taken on the endorsement or proposed endorsement of a
184 candidate for such district office, whether or not the party-endorsed
185 candidate for such office received a unanimous vote on the last ballot,
186 or (2) circulated a petition and obtained the signatures of at least two
187 per cent of the enrolled members of such party in the district for the
188 district office of representative in Congress, and at least five per cent of
189 the enrolled members of such party in the district for the district offices

190 of state senator, state representative and judge of probate, in
191 accordance with the provisions of sections 1 to 3, inclusive, of this act.
192 Candidacies described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be
193 filed by [the filing with] submitting to the Secretary of the State [of] not
194 later than four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of
195 the district convention, a certificate, signed by such candidate and
196 attested by either [(1)] (A) the chairman or presiding officer, or [(2)] (B)
197 the secretary of the convention, that such candidate received at least
198 fifteen per cent of such votes, and that [he] the candidate consents to be
199 a candidate in a primary of such party for such district office. Such
200 certificate shall specify the candidate's name as [he] the candidate
201 authorizes it to appear on the ballot, [his] the candidate's full residence
202 address and the title and district of the office for which [his] the
203 candidacy is being filed. Candidacies described in subdivision (2) of
204 this subsection shall be filed by submitting said petition not later than
205 four o'clock p.m. on the fourteenth day following the close of the
206 district convention to the registrar of voters of the towns in which the
207 respective petition pages were circulated. Each registrar shall file each
208 page of such petition with the secretary in accordance with the
209 provisions of section 3 of this act. Except as provided in section 9-416a,
210 upon the expiration of the fourteen-day period, if one or more
211 candidacies for such district office have been filed pursuant to the
212 provisions of this section, the Secretary of the State shall notify all
213 town clerks within the district, in accordance with the provisions of
214 section 9-433, that a primary for such district office shall be held in
215 [any] each municipality [or] and each part of [any] a municipality
216 within the district in accordance with the provisions of section 9-415,
217 as amended by this act.

218 (c) For the purposes of this section, the number of enrolled members
219 of a party shall be determined by the latest enrollment records in the
220 office of the Secretary of the State prior to the earliest date that primary
221 petitions were available.

222 (d) On the last day for filing primary petition candidacies in
223 accordance with the provisions of this section, the office or office

224 facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than one o'clock
225 p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and such
226 registrars or the deputy or assistant registrars shall be present.

227 Sec. 6. Section 9-405 of the general statutes is repealed and the
228 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

229 (a) (1) Candidacies of persons other than party-endorsed candidates
230 for nomination by a political party to [any] a municipal office to be
231 voted upon at a municipal election, or for election as town committee
232 members or delegates to conventions shall be filed with the registrar,
233 as provided in section 9-406, as amended by this act, not later than four
234 o'clock p.m. on the thirty-fourth day preceding the day of the primary
235 of such party for the nomination of candidates for such office or for the
236 election of town committee members or delegates to conventions,
237 which day and hour shall be specified on the petition forms. (2)
238 Candidacies of persons, other than party-endorsed candidates, for
239 nomination by a political party to a municipal office to be voted upon
240 at a state election shall be filed with the registrar, as provided in
241 section 9-406, as amended by this act, not later than four o'clock p.m.
242 on the fourteenth day following the making of the party's endorsement
243 of a candidate for such office. Said day and hour shall be specified on
244 the petition forms.

245 (b) On [such] the last day for filing [such] primary petition
246 candidacies in accordance with the provisions of this section, the office
247 or office facilities of the registrars of voters shall open not later than
248 one o'clock p.m., and remain open until at least four o'clock p.m., and
249 such registrars or their deputy or assistant registrars shall be present
250 therein.

251 Sec. 7. Section 9-406 of the general statutes is repealed and the
252 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

253 [Within the time specified in section 9-405, a] A candidacy for
254 nomination by a political party to a municipal office or a candidacy for
255 election as a member of a town committee may be filed by or on behalf

256 of any person whose name appears upon the last-completed
 257 enrollment list of such party within the municipality or within the
 258 political subdivision, [or] senatorial district or assembly district within
 259 which a person is to be nominated or a town committee member is to
 260 be elected, as the case may be, [,] Any such candidacy shall be filed by
 261 filing with the registrar within the applicable time specified in section
 262 9-405, as amended by this act, a petition signed by (1) at least five per
 263 cent of the electors whose names appear upon the last-completed
 264 enrollment list of such party in such municipality or in such political
 265 subdivision, [or] senatorial district or assembly district, or [, signed by]
 266 (2) such lesser number of such electors as such party by its rules
 267 prescribes, as the case may be. For the purpose of computing five per
 268 cent of the last-completed enrollment list, the registrar shall use the last
 269 printed enrollment list and the printed supplementary or updated list,
 270 if any, of a political party certified and last completed by the registrars
 271 of voters prior to the date the first primary petition was issued,
 272 excluding therefrom the names of individuals who have ceased to be
 273 electors.

274 Sec. 8. Section 9-412 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 275 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

276 Upon the [filing] receipt of any page of a petition proposing a
 277 candidacy for a municipal office or for member of a town committee or
 278 delegates or district delegates to a convention, the registrar shall
 279 forthwith sign and give to the person [so] submitting [a page or pages
 280 of such] the petition a receipt, [indicating] in duplicate, stating the
 281 number of [such] pages [so submitted] filed and the date and time
 282 [when such pages were submitted] of filing and shall forthwith certify
 283 on each such [sheet] page the number of signers [thereon] of the page
 284 who were enrolled on the last-completed enrollment list of such party
 285 [and] in the municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be,
 286 and shall forthwith file such [sheet, so] certified page, with the clerk of
 287 the municipality, together with [his] the registrar's certificate as to the
 288 whole number of names on the last-completed enrollment list of such
 289 party in such municipality or political subdivision, as the case may be.

290 In [the] checking [of] signatures on primary petition pages, the
291 registrar shall reject any name if such name does not appear on the
292 last-completed enrollment list in the municipality or political
293 subdivision, as the case may be. Such rejection shall be indicated by
294 [the] placing [of] an "R" before the name [so] rejected. The registrar
295 may place a check mark before each name appearing on [such] the
296 enrollment list to indicate approval but shall place no other mark on
297 [such] the page except as provided in this chapter. The registrar shall
298 not reject any name for which the street address on the petition is
299 different from the street address on the enrollment list, if (1) such
300 person is eligible to vote for the candidate or candidates named in the
301 petition, and (2) the person's date of birth, as shown on the petition
302 page, is the same as the date of birth on the person's registration
303 record. The registrar shall reject any page of a petition which does not
304 contain the certifications provided in section 9-410, or which [is
305 determined by said] the registrar determines to have been circulated in
306 violation of any other provision [thereof] of section 9-410. Petitions
307 filed with the municipal clerk shall be preserved for a period of three
308 years and then may be destroyed.

309 Sec. 9. Section 9-415 of the general statutes is repealed and the
310 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

311 [If within the time specified in sections 9-400 and 9-405 a candidacy
312 for nomination by a political party to a state, district or municipal
313 office is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-
314 endorsed candidate in conformity with the provisions of sections 9-400
315 to 9-414, inclusive, or if within such time candidacies numbering at
316 least twenty-five per cent of the number of town committee members
317 to be elected by a party either in the municipality or in the political
318 subdivision, as the case may be, are filed by or on behalf of persons
319 other than party-endorsed candidates in conformity with the
320 provisions of sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, or if within such time
321 candidacies for election as delegates to a convention of a political party
322 are filed by or on behalf of a slate of persons other than party-endorsed
323 candidates in conformity with the provisions of said sections, a

324 primary shall be held in each municipality of the state or district, or in
325 the municipality or political subdivision thereof or senatorial district or
326 assembly district or in each part of a municipality which is a
327 component part of a senatorial or assembly district composed of parts
328 of two towns or of a town or towns and a part or parts of another town
329 or towns therein in which the nomination for municipal office is to be
330 made or in which members of a town committee or delegates to a
331 convention are to be elected, or in each municipality in the district in
332 which district delegates to a convention are to be elected, as the case
333 may be, to determine the nominee of such party for such office or to
334 elect the members of the town committee or the delegates to the
335 convention, except as provided in sections 9-416a, 9-418, 9-419 and 9-
336 420.]

337 (a) If a candidacy for nomination by a political party to a state office
338 is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-endorsed
339 candidate within the time specified in subsection (a) of section 9-400,
340 as amended by this act, and in conformity with the provisions of
341 section 9-400, as amended by this act, a primary shall be held in each
342 municipality of the state to determine the nominee of such party for
343 such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.

344 (b) If a candidacy for nomination by a political party to a district
345 office is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-
346 endorsed candidate within the time specified in subsection (b) of
347 section 9-400, as amended by this act, and in conformity with the
348 provisions of section 9-400, as amended, a primary shall be held in
349 each municipality of the district, to determine the nominee of such
350 party for such office, except as provided in section 9-416a.

351 (c) If a candidacy for nomination by a political party to a municipal
352 office is filed by or on behalf of any person other than a party-
353 endorsed candidate within the applicable time specified in section 9-
354 405, as amended by this act, and in conformity with the provisions of
355 sections 9-405, 9-406, 9-406a, 9-409, 9-410 and 9-412, as amended by
356 this act, and 9-414, a primary shall be held in the municipality or

357 political subdivision thereof in which the nomination for municipal
358 office is to be made, to determine the nominee of such party for such
359 office, except as provided in section 9-418.

360 (d) If candidacies numbering at least twenty-five per cent of the
361 number of town committee members to be elected by a party either in
362 the municipality or in the political subdivision, as the case may be, are
363 filed by or on behalf of persons other than party-endorsed candidates
364 within the time specified in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section
365 9-405, as amended by this act, and in conformity with the provisions of
366 sections 9-405, 9-406, 9-406a, 9-409 to 9-412, inclusive, as amended by
367 this act, and 9-414, a primary shall be held in the municipality or
368 political subdivision thereof in which members of a town committee
369 are to be elected, to elect the members of the town committee, except as
370 provided in sections 9-419 and 9-421.

371 Sec. 10. Section 9-416 of the general statutes is repealed and the
372 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

373 If [at a state or district convention no person other than a party-
374 endorsed candidate has received at least fifteen per cent of the votes of
375 the delegates present and voting on any roll-call vote taken on the
376 endorsement or proposed endorsement of a candidate for a state or
377 district office, or if] within the time specified in section 9-400, as
378 amended by this act, no candidacy for nomination by a political party
379 to [such] a state or district office has been filed by or on behalf of a
380 person other than a party-endorsed candidate in conformity with the
381 provisions of [sections 9-400 to 9-414, inclusive] section 9-400, as
382 amended, no primary shall be held by such party for such office and
383 the party-endorsed candidate for such office shall be deemed to have
384 been lawfully chosen as the nominee of such party for such office.

385 Sec. 11. Section 9-433 of the general statutes is repealed and the
386 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

387 [Upon the expiration of the fourteen-day period prescribed by
388 section 9-400, and] After the deadline set forth in section 9-400, as

389 amended by this act, for filing candidacies, and upon the completion of
390 the tabulation of petition signatures, if any, if one or more candidacies
391 for nomination by a political party to a state or district office have been
392 filed in accordance with the provisions of [said] section 9-400, as
393 amended by this act, the Secretary of the State shall notify the clerk of
394 each town within the state or within the district, as the case may be,
395 that a primary is to be held by such party for the nomination of such
396 party to such office. Such notice shall include a list of all the proposed
397 candidates, those endorsed by the convention as well as those filing
398 candidacies, together with their addresses and the titles of the office
399 for which they are candidates and, if applicable, a statement that
400 unaffiliated electors may vote in the primary. The clerk of each such
401 town shall thereupon cause such notice to be published forthwith in a
402 newspaper having a general circulation in such town, together with a
403 statement of the date upon which the primary is to be held, the hours
404 during which the polls shall be open and the location of the polls.

405 Sec. 12. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 9-437 of the general
406 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

407 (a) At the top of each ballot label shall be printed the name of the
408 party holding the primary, and each ballot label shall contain the
409 names of all candidates to be voted upon at such primary, except the
410 names of delegates to conventions. The vertical columns shall be
411 headed by the designation of the office or position and instructions as
412 to the number for which an elector may vote for such office or position,
413 in the same manner as a ballot label used in a regular election. The
414 name of each candidate for town committee or municipal office, except
415 for the municipal offices of state senator and state representative, shall
416 appear on the ballot label as it appears on the registry list of such
417 candidate's town of voting residence, except as provided in section 9-
418 42a. The name of each candidate for state or district office or for the
419 municipal offices of state senator or state representative shall appear
420 on the ballot as it appears on the certificate or statement of consent
421 filed under section 9-388, [subsection (b) of section] 9-391, [or section]
422 9-400, as amended by this act, [or] 9-409, or section 1 of this act. On the

423 first horizontal line, below the designation of the office or position in
424 each column, shall be placed the name of the party-endorsed candidate
425 for such office or position, such name to be marked with an asterisk;
426 provided, where more than one person may be voted for for any office
427 or position, the names of the party-endorsed candidates shall be
428 arranged in alphabetical order from left to right under the appropriate
429 office or position designation and shall continue, if necessary, from left
430 to right on the next lower line or lines. In the case of no party
431 endorsement there shall be inserted the designation "no party
432 endorsement" at the head of the vertical column, immediately beneath
433 the designation of the office or position. On the horizontal lines below
434 the line for party-endorsed candidates shall be placed, in the
435 appropriate columns, the names of all other candidates as hereinafter
436 provided.

437 (b) (1) In the case of two or more such candidates for the same state
438 or district office, precedence as to row shall be determined by the
439 alphabetical order of the surnames of such candidates, except as
440 provided under subdivision (2) of this subsection. (2) If a single
441 certificate or a single petition has been filed under subsection (a) of
442 section 9-400, as amended by this act, on behalf of two or more
443 candidates and proposing one candidate for each state office to be
444 contested at such primary, a single row shall be used for the names of
445 such candidates and precedence as to row between such certificates
446 and petitions shall be determined by the Secretary of the State by lot in
447 a ceremony which shall be open to the public. The names of all other
448 candidates for state office shall be placed in the appropriate columns in
449 alphabetical order on the rows below the row or rows used for
450 candidates whose names are contained in such a single certificate, [or]
451 certificates, single petition or petitions.

452 Sec. 13. Subsection (a) of section 9-453i of the general statutes is
453 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

454 (a) Each page of a nominating petition proposing a candidate for an
455 office to be filled at a regular election shall be submitted to the

456 appropriate town clerk or to the Secretary of the State not later than
457 four o'clock p.m. on the [final day for the filing of primary petitions for
458 municipal offices to be filled at such election pursuant to section 9-405]
459 ninetieth day preceding the day of the regular election.

460 Sec. 14. Section 9-35c of the general statutes is repealed and the
461 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

462 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 9-238, 9-400, 9-406 and
463 9-436 and other provisions of the general statutes, the names of electors
464 on the inactive registry list compiled under section 9-35 shall not be
465 counted for purposes of computing the number of voting machines
466 required and the number of petition signatures required. Each elector
467 on such inactive registry list who, in the determination of the
468 registrars, has signed a petition pursuant to the general statutes, giving
469 the same address as appears on the inactive registry list, shall
470 forthwith be placed on the active registry list compiled under said
471 section 9-35. Each such elector shall be counted for purposes of future
472 computations of the number of voting machines required and the
473 number of signatures required on future petitions issued for other
474 electoral events. The names of electors on the inactive registry list
475 compiled pursuant to section 9-35 shall not be counted for purposes of
476 computing the minimum percentage of the number of electors
477 required in any charter or special act, if such charter or special act
478 requires approval of a referendum by a minimum percentage of
479 electors qualified on the last-completed registry list or has a similar
480 requirement.

481 Sec. 15. (a) There is established a Blue Ribbon Commission to study
482 modifying the election calendar to provide for an earlier nominating
483 primary in state elections.

484 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

485 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
486 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
487 relating to elections, or their designees;

488 (2) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
489 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of the League
490 of Women Voters of Connecticut;

491 (3) Two members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
492 Senate;

493 (4) One member appointed by the majority leader of the House of
494 Representatives;

495 (5) One member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

496 (6) One member appointed by the minority leader of the House of
497 Representatives;

498 (7) One member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

499 (8) The Secretary of the State, or the secretary's designee;

500 (9) The executive director of the State Elections Enforcement
501 Commission, or the executive director's designee;

502 (10) Two members appointed by the Governor;

503 (11) A representative of the Registrars of Voters Association of
504 Connecticut, who shall be designated by said association; and

505 (12) A representative of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association,
506 Inc., who shall be designated by said association.

507 (c) Any member of the commission appointed or designated under
508 subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) of subsection (b) of this section
509 may be a member of the General Assembly.

510 (d) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than
511 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
512 filled by the appointing authority.

513 (e) The chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General

514 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections, or their
515 designees, shall serve as chairpersons of the commission. Such
516 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which
517 shall be held no later than sixty days after the effective date of this
518 section.

519 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
520 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to elections
521 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

522 (g) Not later than January 1, 2002, the commission shall submit a
523 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
524 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
525 relating to elections, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
526 of the general statutes. The commission shall terminate on the date that
527 it submits such report or January 1, 2002, whichever is earlier.

528 Sec. 16. This act shall take effect from its passage, except that
529 sections 1 to 14, inclusive, shall take effect January 1, 2002, and shall
530 apply to primaries and elections held on or after January 1, 2002.

GAE	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R</i>	JUD
JUD	<i>Joint Favorable Subst. C/R-LCO</i>	APP
APP	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	
PD	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	